



Mrs. Stanley Desjaredins polishes some of the unusual shaped bottles she has collected.

19TH CENTURY LORE

Bottle Collecting— It's Family Hobby

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BRIGHAM CITY — A hobby surprisingly diversified and enjoyable is that of the Stanley Desjaredins family—bottle collecting.

The family has a rare bottle collection of over 100 items gathered for the most part during the past several years from the ruins of old railroad towns and other early settlements in western Box Elder County.

The bottles, made between 1860 and 1900, come in all shapes, colors and for assorted purposes—soda water and other beverages, patent medicines, chutney, relishes, preserves, and others.

"One can tell the difference between old and machine-made bottles," Mrs. Desjaredins pointed out. Old bottles have the seam stop short of the lip while the others have the seam going through the lip.

The family dug up most of the bottles in the Kelton area, where, according to Mrs. Desjaredins, there were once railroad towns every twenty miles to supply water for the steam engines. "I've really had to read up on the history of the county to get this collection," she laughed.

Some were found just under the surface of the ground while others were five or six feet deep. Mrs. Desjaredins explained that their two girls, Sandy, age 12, and Joni, 10, would scream with excitement when they unearthed a rare bottle.

Mrs. Desjaredins, a collector of antiques (her home is furnished in "Early Mormon,") makes a study of the bottles and is able to identify each one, the approximate time when made and its use.